Ella Mary Edith Wynne, née Sutherland

13 June 1904 – June 2006 · `@I242350670888@` · Will Hancock's maternal grandmother

> *Drafted 13 August 2026 from the Dharmavault genealogy spine (records, graded claims and the family papers).* ***Revised the same day*** *on Will's testimony and on a full re-reading of the letter of 23 October 1939, which had been only a fifth transcribed. Confidence is marked throughout:* ***[R]*** *record-evidenced,* ***[P]*** *plausible / inferred,* ***[?]*** *not established,* ***[T]*** *testimony of her daughter Elizabeth Hancock, 15–16 August 2026. Nothing here is family tradition promoted to fact.*

The short account

The only daughter of a Liverpool master mariner, born into a house where the father was usually at sea. She married a Liverpool man in 1933, moved south to Pinner, had one daughter in 1936, and spent the war moving between Middlesex, **Shropshire** and the Wirral while both her brothers were abroad — one in Canada, one running a colonial harbour in South America. She was the child who stayed. She had money of her own, which was unusual, and used it: when her father needed £400 for a house she lent it to him, and when he died she was the one on the spot who settled the household. She outlived her father by more than sixty years, both her brothers, and her husband by fourteen. **She died in June 2006, aged 102, at Abbeyfield in Farnham, with her daughter and her granddaughter in the room. [T]**

> *## ■ REVISED 16 AUGUST 2026 — two corrections, both from her daughter*
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> ***1. She did not die in about 1995. She died in JUNE 2006, aged 102.*** *The earlier date came from Will's recollection and nothing else. Elizabeth Hancock corrected it on tape on 15 August 2026* ***and again, unprompted, in a voice note on 16 August*** *— "she didn't die about three years after my father. She died in 2006, aged 102." Her mother's birthday was* ***13 June****, she died about* ***23 June 2006*** *at* ***Abbeyfield, Farnham****, of old age, and she had* ***reached 100 and been sent the royal message*** *— a card, not a telegram.* ***That moves the death by eleven years and makes this a life of 102 years.*** *Order the GRO death certificate: Farnham, Surrey, June 2006.*
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> ***2. THE DISPOSAL IS DISPUTED, and both accounts are held.*** *Elizabeth says on tape that she was* ***cremated at Aldershot and her ashes scattered*** *— "No, it was cremation… yes, ashes scattered" — and that she drove the vicar to the scattering because his car had broken down.* ***Will says she was buried at Aldershot cemetery****, and reaffirmed it on 18 August after reading this record.* ***They agree on Aldershot and on the organic wicker coffin.***
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> ***A cremation followed by interment of the ashes would reconcile them*** *— a son would remember a burial, a daughter a cremation — leaving only scattered against interred in dispute.* ***The Aldershot crematorium and cemetery registers, held by Rushmoor Borough Council, settle it.*** *Until then the archive holds both. There was also a service at the church in Old Basing.*
>
> ***3. The war years omitted Shropshire.*** *"On Ella, the short account — it says she spent the war moving between Middlesex and the Wirral, but it doesn't include Westbury in Shropshire, which was between the two." —* ***Elizabeth Hancock, voice note, 16 August 2026.*** *They were at* ***"The Shrubbery", Westbury****, the house of Ella's first cousin* ***Auntie Con****, from the outbreak of war until about 1942, with* ***"Aunt Em"*** *— a sister of Ella's mother Annie Sheen — living there too. See* `../places/houses/the_shrubbery_westbury.md`*.*
>
> ***The body of this biography below has NOT been rewritten*** *— only the short account and the dates at the head. Where the text below still says c.1995, read 2006.*

Beginnings

Baptised 18 August 1904 at Toxteth St Thomas, Liverpool [R], daughter of Edward William Sutherland and Annie. Her birth date is genuinely unsettled: the tree carries *abt 1905*, the 1911 census makes her 6, and an Ancestry pedigree offers 13 June 1904. **[?]** A printout in the family papers appears to give 20 November 1888 against her baptism — that is a transcription bleed from a different entry on the same page (it is Zoe Sutherland's date) and should be ignored.

Her father was **Captain Edward William Rose Jasper Sutherland** (b. Kamptee, India, 19 Feb 1872 — d. 11 Apr 1942), forty-eight years at sea out of Liverpool, master's ticket 1899. Her mother was **Annie Sheen** (b. 4 Jul 1868 — d. 4 Jan 1938), a labourer's daughter from 60 Burlington Street who trained in London and nursed at Liverpool City Hospital before her marriage in 1897. The social distance between those two families is the sharpest piece of movement anywhere in this tree.

She had two brothers: **Kenneth Graham** (b. Dec 1902) and **Rollo**, who went to Canada. In **1911 the family were at 109 Blantyre Road, Wavertree [R]**, Ella aged 6.

The 1911–1933 gap — no longer empty, on her daughter's testimony of 16 August 2026 [T]. Asked to fill it, Elizabeth supplied this, and it is the only account of those twenty-two years that exists:

> *"She lived in the family home until she married. As it was said earlier, both her brothers were away. I think her schooling is mentioned somewhere else — I can't remember the name of the school she went to.* ***She did have one job before she married, which was, I think, in an import-export firm in Liverpool, not for very long. I have a feeling it was about importing oranges****, which must have been post-war, I'm guessing.* ***She had a pretty busy social life. She was engaged at one time to — I think he was a vicar*** *— I don't remember his name. And she was quite old for the time, because she was 33 — no, 30 maybe — when she was married, and I was born a couple of years later, I think. She did, during that period when her father was at sea, go on trips with him, and I can remember her talking about going to the Netherlands and Ukraine. I think she went quite a few times."*

Four things in that, of very different weight:

- **She lived at home until she married.** Simple, and it explains the documentary silence: an unmarried daughter at her parents' address generates no record of her own.
- **One job, in an import–export firm in Liverpool — possibly importing oranges. ★** This refines the "fruit importer" she gave on 15 August. Liverpool's fruit import trade is small and documented; Kelly's Directory lists the firms. **Still her only recorded employment.**
- **★★ SHE WAS ENGAGED BEFORE, POSSIBLY TO A CLERGYMAN.** Entirely new, and nowhere else in this archive. The name is gone. **[?]**
- **She sailed with her father to the Netherlands and Ukraine, "quite a few times"** — which matches, independently, the Danube and Black Sea passages Captain Sutherland wrote up in *Sea Breezes*.

She corrects her own arithmetic mid-sentence and lands on the right answer. Ella was born 13 June 1904 and married on or about 12 June 1933 — **the day before her twenty-ninth birthday**, so twenty-eight. Elizabeth opens the note with *"28 when she married"* and then talks herself round to 33 and back to 30. **The first figure was correct**, and it is an incidental confirmation of both the birth date and the marriage date from a witness not trying to prove either.

What is still missing: the name of her school, the name of the firm, and the name of the man she was engaged to. **[?]**

Marriage, 1933

She married **Charles Wynne** — born 3 February 1905 at 113 Adelaide Road, Liverpool, baptised that April, died 1992 — at Liverpool. The GRO index says the April quarter of 1933; a surviving letter dates it **almost certainly Monday 12 June 1933 [P]**, because the index quarter runs April–June and the letter is precise where the index is not.

That letter is the best thing the archive holds about her wedding. Written 8 June 1933 from 298 Utting Avenue East, West Derby, it opens *"My dear Niece, Ella"* and says:

> *"I am looking forward to the duty which devolves on me on Monday… naturally, that one likes — one does not like to give away."*

Otho gave her away, and her father was alive. [R] The family says so directly — *"Otho gave her away"* (Will Hancock, 13 Aug 2026) — and the name holds up from a second direction: a Canadian cousin in Calgary, writing to Elizabeth in 2023 without ever seeing this letter, identifies **Otho Francis McMahon Nicholson**, born Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, a ship's captain, descended from the same Sutherlands.

Why the uncle and not the father is still unexplained. Her father was sixty-two and a serving master mariner; absence at sea would answer it, and so would half a dozen other things. **[?]**

Pinner, and one daughter

Elizabeth was born on 2 September 1936, and the news went by Post Office greetings telegram the following day — handed in at London, delivered at Liverpool Low Hill, cancelled *3 SP 36*:

> *"WYNNE 81 SPENCER STREET LIVERPOOL — ELLA AND DAUGHTER EXCELLENT PROGRESS — CHARLES"*

Charles was in London, wiring Liverpool, which suggests the birth was in or near London rather than on Merseyside **[P]**. It is the earliest document in the archive about Will's mother, and it was kept for ninety years.

The Wynnes were at **46 Marsworth Avenue, Pinner [R]** by 1938–39, and by 1943 at **"Mossgiel", Sweetmans Avenue, Pinner [R]**.

The money, 1939

Her father's will of 18 May 1939 records, in a solicitor's hand:

> *"TO pay the balance of moneys owing by me (which at the moment is the sum of Three hundred pounds) to my daughter Mrs. Ella Mary Wynne of Pinner… this sum being the balance of Four hundred pounds originally lent by my daughter in respect of the purchase by me of my dwellinghouse and residence 31 Plattsville Road, Mossley Hill, Liverpool."* ***[R]***

She lent her father £400 towards his house — the daughter financing the father, not the other way about.

Five months later her brother explained why she could: writing to persuade her to accept help, he says *"I know you will not like to do this* ***as you have your own money****"*. **[R]** She had money independent of her husband, stated as a plain fact between siblings who both knew it. **Where it came from is still unknown** — and the 1911–1933 gap in her life is the obvious place for it to have come from. **[?]**

In November 1938 her father was **staying with her at Marsworth Avenue** — his sister Nellie's letter is addressed to him there. **[R]**

The war

Seven weeks after war was declared, on 23 October 1939, her brother Ken wrote to her at **"the Shrubbery"** from Nottingham House, Georgetown — four sides, and the only letter from him to her that survives. Charles had enlisted; the firm he worked for had done nothing for him.

> *"I must say I consider that Chas's firm are wealthy enough to have done something for him, a real case of the willing horse. Barbara & I have talked things over and would like you to accept a pound a week from us, while things remain like this."* ***[R]***

He anticipates her refusing it, and says why she might: *"I know you will not like to do this as you have your own money."* He is careful about her husband's dignity too — a shilling a day is *"just fag money & none for beer, which would never do"*, and he weighs whether help might *"stand in his way for a commission"*. Then, characteristically, he stops arguing and encloses the money: **"a cheque for the first ten weeks, say to the end of the year."** And: *"You must send parcels etc to Chas & cheer him up you know."*

His wife Barbara adds her own letter on the last page — *"Charles's firm must be Nazis or something"* — and tries to get the whole family out to the tropics: *"I wish you could come out here and stay with us, think what you'd save in winter or any other clothes! E.A. would need only the briefest of panties."* **"E.A." is almost certainly Elizabeth Ann, aged three. [P]**

It is the one direct sight the archive has of the Wynnes' circumstances at the outbreak of war, and of the tone between Ella and her brother, which is plainly close and practical on both sides.

By December 1944 she was at **29 Sandy Lane, Wallasey [R]**, where Rollo's airgraph from 1210 Jervis Street, Vancouver reached her — the only document in his hand that survives.

Charles Wynne's war — what we actually have

Two documents, seven weeks and three and a half years apart, and nothing in between.

October 1939. Ken's letter puts Charles **in the ranks on a shilling a day** — *"just fag money & none for beer, which would never do"* — and weighs whether the family's help might *"stand in his way for a commission, as then of course his exes would [rise] a lot.* ***& with his early training in the O.T.C.*** *he should stand quite a chance."* **[R]** The *O.T.C.* reading was checked at magnification and is certain.

May 1943. The Midland Bank Executor & Trustee Co., settling her father's estate, writes to Mrs E. Wynne: *"**Captain Wynne** called the other day and explained about the Mortgage Interest."* **[R]**

What that does and does not prove. It proves he enlisted, that a commission was thought likely, and that by 1943 a Liverpool bank addressed him as a captain. **It does not prove he was commissioned** — a bank writes the rank it is given — and it does not exclude the Home Guard. **The regiment, the date of any commission, and his service are all unevidenced. [?]**

Where it can be settled. His service record is the decisive document, and which archive holds it depends on the answer: the MOD keeps **officer** records where service ended after April 1922, and has transferred **non-officer** records for men born before 1940 to The National Archives. Charles was born in 1905 — so *if he was commissioned the MOD still has him, and if he wasn't, Kew does.* Either way an application answers the question. He died in 1992, so the 25-year next-of-kin restriction does not apply. The London Gazette would carry any commission, but a search on his full name returns nothing usable — 1940s Gazette pages are OCR of scans and commissions were gazetted as *"WYNNE, C."* with a service number. **A photograph with a cap badge would identify the regiment in one look.**

Her father's death, 1942

Edward Sutherland died on 11 April 1942 at 33 Plattsville Road, Wavertree, aged 71. The death notice names all three children in one line — *"dear father of Rollo, Kenneth and Ella"* — the first single document ever to do so. **[R]**

Ella was the one who was there. Ken, in Georgetown and unable to cross the Atlantic in wartime, wrote to their stepmother **Emmy** (Emmie Kilner, the nurse who had cared for Annie through her last illness and whom their father married in 1938–39):

> *"I hope I shall hear later, when you or Ella can write & tell me what your plans are… I am writing a note to Ella."* ***[R]***

The estate's residue was divided three ways in 1943: Mrs Sutherland £619 19s 4d, **Mrs Wynne £495 13s 1d**, K. G. Sutherland Esq. **[R]**

Afterwards

Her brother **Ken died at Wallasey on 8 June 1948**, aged 45. His Georgetown obituaries list among the mourners *"a sister, Mrs. Wynne of Cheshire, England"* **[R]** — so she was still on the Wirral in mid-1948.

She is named on the kerbstone of the Sutherland family grave at Holy Trinity, Wavertree: **ROLLO KENNETH ELLA**. **[R]**

What she was like

*Her daughter's account, recorded 15 August 2026 (part 2, 03:16–08:26), added here 23 September 2026. Everything in this section is **[T]**; her words are in italics.*

Asked for her mother's voice, height, dress, the way she moved, Elizabeth gives a character instead: *"She was quite plump and pretty and very smiley, but very non-confrontational."* Pressed on whether that was fear of confrontation or a decision not to have it: *"she didn't have strong opinions really. I wouldn't be able to say what her views were. I know that she was more liberal than my father, but she didn't ever talk about it."*

She was sociable: *"she had lots of friends."* Not nervous. *"She liked her gin and tonic when we went out"*, and was otherwise not a drinker.

She voted Conservative, without thought behind it. Elizabeth remembers, at seven or eight, *"spouting"* socialism at her and expressing disgust at her support for the Conservative Party: *"she would say, well, you're only young, you'll understand."* Ella *"got very upset"* when Elizabeth argued with her father, *"which I did a lot"*. *"I think she probably agreed with me, but that's why I say she just didn't want to have any confrontation."* Politics were not discussed in the house at all: *"people didn't talk about politics"*, and Elizabeth did not know Tony's politics when she married him. The Masons in the family — her father, her brother Ken, and Uncle Edwin — are told in Elizabeth's own biography (section XIV).

An ordinary weekday. *"Shop every day, and she went on a bike, and do the house."* She never drove. *"She read a lot"* — *"literary, really"* — and *"went to the library every week"*; there were no books in the house, and Elizabeth was at the library all the time too. She had no literary friends. Her education, Elizabeth thinks, was *"mostly at home"*, through the books and through her father: *"he influenced her very much in everything she thought, really."*

Her father, Captain Sutherland, called her *"Molly"*, and called Elizabeth *"Tom"*, for no reason anyone could give. When Elizabeth brought school friends home, Ella *"would cook chips and chocolate biscuits for everybody"* — the warmest thing her daughter says of her, and it is offered as evidence: *"she was a very good mother, because…"*

Her death

Her husband Charles died in **1992**. **[R]**

She died about three years later — **in or about 1995, aged about ninety-one [P] (■** *corrected below: 2006, aged 102)* — and she did not die alone. **Her daughter Elizabeth and her granddaughter Caroline were both in the room.**

> *"Ella died in the presence of Elizabeth my mum and Caroline my sister, she can confirm the date I think 1995 ish."*
> *— Will Hancock, 13 August 2026*

This is the first statement of any kind about her death that this archive has ever held. Until it was given, her record read *"abt 1905 – ?"*: no death date in the GEDCOM, none in thirty-eight document records, none in her own daughter's research papers of 2017–23.

The year is deliberately held as **approximate**, on the speaker's own hedge, and has **not** been written into the master tree. **The circumstance is better evidenced than the date** — a grandson knowing who was present when his grandmother died is ordinary reliable family knowledge; a year recalled thirty years on is not. The archive elsewhere says she died at **Farnham, Surrey**; that is not part of this testimony and remains untested. **[?]**

Two people can close it exactly. Elizabeth was there. So was Caroline. After that, the GRO death index for 1993–97 and the probate calendar — which for the 1990s gives the exact date, the address and the value of the estate.

■ Closed two days later — 15 August 2026, in her daughter's words

Added 23 September 2026 from the recorded interview of 15 August 2026 (part 2, 15:05–17:55). The paragraphs above are left as written on 13 August; this is what corrected them.

Read the gap, Elizabeth corrected it at once: *"I gave you some misinformation. I said 1995."* **She died in 2006, at Abbeyfield in Farnham, aged 102** — *"her birthday was the 13th of June, and she died, I think, on the 23rd of June"* —

so she had her telegram from the Queen: *"it was a card."* The cause was *"old age."* **[T]**

Elizabeth had been with her that afternoon and had gone home: *"I didn't know she was dying, actually … then I got a phone call and said, come back. But I wasn't aware, really, that she was dying."* Caroline and Elizabeth were both there.

The funeral and the cremation were at the crematorium in Aldershot, she thinks; the ashes were scattered there. Elizabeth drove the vicar, whose car had broken down. She remembers *"the organic wicker coffin that she had, that was very nice"*, and Caroline, held up on the road from Brighton, arriving *"in a yellow miniskirt" — "that's quite appropriate."*

What this settles: the year (2006, not 1995), the place (Abbeyfield, Farnham — the archive's "Farnham" was right), the age (102, not ninety-one), and cremation rather than burial. **Still to close by record:** the exact day, which she gives with an *"I think"*; the GRO index for June 2006 and the probate calendar will give it.

Open questions

#	Question	Why it matters
1	**The exact day of her death in June 2006.**	Elizabeth gives June 2006, aged 102, and thinks *"the 23rd of June"*. The GRO death certificate — Farnham, Surrey, June 2006 — settles it.
2	~~Where she died, and where she is buried or scattered.~~ **Answered 15 Aug 2026.**	She died at **Abbeyfield, Farnham**, of old age. **Cremated at Aldershot and her ashes scattered there — no grave**, in an organic wicker coffin, with a service at the church in Old Basing. Still open: who registered the death, and whether there was a press notice.
3	Her real birth date — 1904 or 1905?	Three sources, three answers.
4	What did she do between school and 1933?	Twenty-two years of a life with nothing in them — and the likeliest source of her own money.
5	**Where did her money come from?**	Her brother confirms she had it. Nothing says how.
6	Why did her father not give her away?	Otho is settled; the reason is not.
7	~~Where was "the Shrubbery"?~~ **Answered 14–17 Aug 2026.**	**Westbury, Shropshire** — the house of her first cousin **Auntie Con**, with Uncle John, Patrick and **Aunt Em** (a sister of Annie Sheen, *not* Emmie Kilner). Still open: which building, and all four surnames.
8	**Which regiment was Charles in, and was he really commissioned?**	Private in Oct 1939, addressed as Captain by May 1943. His service record settles it — MOD if an officer, Kew if not.
9	Why did she never mention the Beauchant half-siblings?	Elizabeth noticed this herself in 2023.
10	What was she like?	Nothing in this file answers that. Only one person can.

Sources behind this account

Letter of 8 June 1933 (Nancy & Otho) · Greetings telegram, 3 Sep 1936 · Will of E.W.R.J. Sutherland, 18 May 1939, with estate papers 1942–43 · **Letter of 23 Oct 1939 from Kenneth Sutherland to Ella, with Barbara's letter following —**

read in full from the page photographs on 13 Aug 2026 · Letter of Nellie Sutherland, 2 Nov 1938 · Ken Sutherland's letter to "Emmy", 1942 · Rollo's airgraph, 3 Dec 1944 · Obituary cuttings for Capt. K. G. Sutherland, June 1948 · Photograph of the Sutherland family grave · 1911 census · Liverpool baptism and marriage registers · Research papers of Elizabeth Hancock, 2017–23 · **Will's testimony, 13 Aug 2026 (**`testimony-2026-ella-death-1995-and-otho`**)**.